

Anti-Bullying Alliance

Protecting Kentucky's Most Vulnerable Resource — Our Kids

Stop the Bullying Now



Parents tell us...

We have had school counselors saying that Bobby will just have to suck it up and ignore the other children when we have complained. They state the old saying "sticks and stones will break my bones and names will never hurt me."

Owen County Parents

I live in Liberty Kentucky. In July of 2004 my 19 year old son shot and killed himself. I have dealt with the school system, the mental health system and the court system. There are so many things that took place over the course of his life that I believe were contributing factors to his death. When he was young he was picked on by the older kids. When he tried to tell the teachers he was ignored, when he tried to stand up for himself he got in trouble. When he got older and bigger and didn't care if he got in trouble for standing up for himself, he was called a trouble maker.

Casey County Mother

The message I get from school officials is he needs to learn to ignore and cope.

Franklin County Mother

My son has been bullied for years in Jefferson County schools and I raised the issue time and time again last year at the district level. My son and I both experienced discrimination and stonewalling from the system

Jefferson County Mother

What HB 91 Does

1. Schools and school districts must have plans, policies, and procedures dealing with measures for assisting students who are engaging in disruptive and disorderly behavior including the harassment, intimidation, or bullying of another student.
2. Defines bullying, harassment, and intimidation as *intentional, repeated conduct with intent to harm another student*.
3. Local districts will determine the policies, rules, and strategies for inclusion in the student code of acceptable behavior and discipline. They are not imposed by Frankfort.
4. Establishes that students must be provided a school environment free of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
5. Provides for reporting and investigating incidents.
6. Requires a school district to provide information to students, parents and legal guardians and training to employees, to the extent that funds are available, so awareness is raised, students and employees know their responsibility, and the policy is applied consistently.
7. Includes harassment, intimidation, or bullying as a cause for suspension or expulsion of a student so there is an appropriate consequence for unacceptable behavior.
8. Requires districts to report incidents where an individual student has been disciplined for harassment, intimidation, or bullying in a single semester or where an individual student has been the object of three or more separate, proven incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in a single semester.
9. Allows civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitutions where the opinion does not disrupt the education process.

KY School Boards Association • KY Center for School Safety • KY Department of Education • KY Education Association (KEA) • KY Association of School Councils
KY Association of School Administrators • KY Association of School Superintendents • KY Association of School Resource Officers
Jefferson County Teachers Association (JCTA) • KY Parent Teacher Association • KY Domestic Violence Association • KY Mental Health Coalition
KY Council for Children with Behavior Disorders • Mental Health America of KY • KY Psychiatric Medical Association • KY Public Health Association
Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky • KY Psychological Association • KY Pediatric Society • KY Association for Gifted Education • KY Protection and Advocacy
KY Crime Prevention Coalition • KY County Attorneys Association (KCAA) • KY Partnership for Families and Children
KY School Counselors Association • Adoption Support of KY (ASK) • KY Fairness Alliance • Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana
National Association of Social Workers-KY Chapter • The Fairness Campaign • KY Conference for Community and Justice • The ARC of Kentucky
KY Commission on Human Rights • Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence • American Civil Liberties Union of KY • Catholic Conference of KY
KY Youth Advocates • KY Council of Churches • KY Society for Clinical Social Workers • KY Association for Psychology in the Schools • KY Child Now

Why Kentucky's Kids Need HB 91

Children are bullied in our schools. *"The facts about bullying show that 10 to 15 percent of children are bullied regularly, and bullying most often takes place in school, frequently right in the classroom. The facts show, too, that bullying is an equal-opportunity torment — the size of a school, its setting (rural, urban or suburban) and racial composition seem to have no bearing on its occurrence. Bullying takes a heavy toll on the victims. As many as 7 percent of eighth grade students in the United States stay home at least once a month because of bullies. Chronic fear can be the source of all-too-real stomachaches and headaches and other stress-related illnesses. According to Norway's Dan Olweus, a leading authority on the subject, being bullied also leads to depression and low self-esteem, problems that can carry into adulthood. The effects of such behavior are grim for the offender, too. One study by Olweus shows that 60 percent of kids characterized as bullies in sixth through ninth grades had at least one criminal conviction by age 24."* (Bully-Proof Your School by Colleen Newquist, Education World® http://www.education-world.com/a_admin/admin018.shtml.)

Our children say bullying and teasing is a big problem. A 2001 survey, "Talking With Kids About Tough Issues," showed that of the 8—11 year olds surveyed, 74% said that bullying and teasing occurred at their school. Of the 12—15-year-olds, 86% said bullying and teasing was a problem at their school. (Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon which asked 1,249 parents of children ages 8 to 15 and 823 children ages 8 to 15 about their problems.)

Bullying triggers school violence. *In two-thirds of the cases of school shootings, the Secret Service reports that the attacker had felt persecuted, bullied, threatened, attacked, or injured before the incident. Many had experienced longstanding and severe bullying and harassment, which some attackers describe as torment.* (The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000)

Bullying is not always physical. In a study of bullying, teasing, and sexual harassment in school, the American Association of University Women found that 83% of girls and 79% of boys report having ever experienced harassment at school, with over 1 in 4 students experiencing it "often." 76% of students have experienced non-physical harassment while 58% have experienced physical harassment, with one-third of all students reporting that they experience physical harassment "often or occasionally." 18% of students fear being hurt by someone in their school life "some" or "most" of the time, and less than half (46%) are "never" afraid in school. (Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School (2001), American Association of University Women, 2001)

- **The National Association of State Boards of Education** supports policies and practices that identify and prevent harassment, intimidation, bullying.
- **The National School Boards Association** endorses the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources campaign to prevent youth bullying.
- **The National PTA** endorses policies and programs that address prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying.
- **Bullying Prevention is Crime Prevention,** a Report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, states that 60% of bullies in grades 6 thru 9 were convicted of one crime by age 24.

Special Consultants to the Anti-Bullying Alliance

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